



# School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

July 2017

## Iowa issues request for proposals for new statewide assessments

The Iowa Department of Education announced a request for proposals (RFP) to select new statewide assessments of student progress in English language arts, mathematics and science starting in the 2018-19 school year.

The Department is seeking bids for new assessments, as well as a vendor to provide them statewide. The process was prompted by 2017 state legislation ([Senate File 240](#)) that directed the Department to issue an RFP for new statewide assessments by July 1. The Iowa Department of Administrative Services issued the RFP on the education department's behalf.

[Read more.](#)



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## The 'lollipop' moments of your life

Lollipop has long been my least favorite word in the English language. It's not that I have anything against lollipops. In fact, I love them. But the word sounds strange. So I avoid it.

The Benton Community School District Ed Camp, however, changed what comes to mind when I hear the word lollipop. Instead of that grating 1950s [song](#) and the clunky mechanics of saying the word, I now think about the message in Drew Dudley's "[Leading with Lollipops](#)." This brief talk, which the Benton team showed to start the day, captures the enormous impact that seemingly small, inconsequential actions – like giving a lollipop to a stranger – can have on the lives of others.



**Director Ryan Wise**

Educators' lives are filled with lollipop moments, most of which go unrecognized. The lollipop moment can be a singular event or the culmination of interactions over time. I experienced this phenomenon the year after I left the classroom when a former student ran up to me, gave me a hug, and said, "Mr. Wise, I was so blessed to have you as my history teacher. I would not have survived my freshman history class in college if you hadn't been my teacher in high school." Had we not randomly bumped into each other, I would never have known the impact I had on her life.

In Iowa, the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system creates more opportunities for teachers to have lollipop moments with colleagues. In the June [American Institutes for Research report on TLC](#), nearly all (98%) of the teacher leaders participating in statewide focus groups agreed or strongly agreed that TLC provides teachers opportunities to engage in high-quality collaboration with peers.

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# There's flexibility in teaching financial literacy standards

Key to the new financial literacy standards is the flexibility allowed in how a district chooses to address the requirements.

Financial literacy standards, which are a part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills standards, were revised in May. Though the standards are a part of social studies, the content also can be taught in areas such as family and consumer sciences, business, or any other content area the district sees as a good fit.

To view the standards go to the [Iowa Core website](#).



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The opportunity for lollipop moments, for teachers to positively impact the lives of their colleagues, grows with more frequent engagement.

In addition, we also know that teacher leadership not only strengthens the quality of collaboration and professional learning, over time it also improves student learning. The highest performing education systems in the world all have teacher leadership at the core of their approach to strengthening instruction.

I had the privilege of participating in a panel in Washington D.C. in June for the release of the new book [Empowered Educators](#), which was commissioned by Marc Tucker and the National Center on Education and the Economy. The lead author, Stanford's Linda Darling-Hammond, and a team of researchers examined several high-performing education systems – including Australia, Canada, Finland, Shanghai, and Singapore – and discovered common themes across each of these systems, which sit at the center of TLC:

- Teaching is a collaborative, not isolated, profession.
- Teaching is a learning profession in which teachers continually learn new skills and increase their knowledge.
- Teaching provides opportunities for leadership and decision making.

I'm excited both to work in a state that is building upon best practices to improve teaching and learning and is serving as a model for other states and the nation. Just last week, United States Senators Chris Coons, Joni Ernst, Chuck Grassley, and Jack Reed introduced the [Teachers Are Leaders Act](#), which draws heavily from the TLC model. Iowa is out front in cultivating teacher leadership and all Iowa educators are a part of this achievement.

I hope each of you finds time this summer to reflect on the lollipop moments in your life and consider the opportunities you have for continued impact in the year ahead.

*Ryan M. Wise*

## Work partnerships pick up steam in Iowa

Work is going strong in the development of partnerships across the state that include the private sector, area education agencies, community colleges and school districts to provide effective, efficient, and economical means of delivering high-quality secondary career and technical education programs.



A total of 15 partnerships have been approved by the Iowa Department of Education, well before the June 30 deadline.

The work is the outcome of legislative [House File 2392](#), which represents the first major revision to secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) policy in Iowa since 1989 and is helping shape the future of CTE programs across the state. [Read more.](#)

## Federal grant links education and workforce data

Iowa was one of six states recently awarded a federal Workforce Data Quality Initiative grant to expand the capability of the state's longitudinal data system to perform analysis on postsecondary education and workforce outcomes.

During the three-year grant period, the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Workforce Development will partner in the development of a web-based community college data submission system to streamline the matching of education records with employment outcomes and automate the reporting of program outcomes.

This expanded capability will improve data integrity and allow for a more comprehensive analysis of workforce and education program effectiveness. This will help residents make informed decisions about education and training programs as well as measure progress toward Iowa's Future Ready Iowa goal of having 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce with education or training beyond high school by 2025.

For more information about the Department's role in the grant project, contact Paula Nissen at 515-281-3550 or [paula.nissen2@iowa.gov](mailto:paula.nissen2@iowa.gov).



## Staff development: Ethics for educators

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners has created an ethics curriculum for use during staff development or other staff educational opportunities. These free presentation materials will assist school leaders to facilitate important conversations, and will allow all educators to be better prepared to protect students, to make ethical decisions, and to take responsibility to uphold ethical standards for the profession.

This curriculum framework may be customized for use in one presentation (approximately 2 hours or more, depending on how many optional activities are chosen), or spread throughout multiple short sessions.

A PowerPoint presentation and facilitator's handbook were distributed to superintendents in May. If you did not receive the materials, send a request to Joanne Tubbs at 515-281-3611 or [joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov](mailto:joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov), and then share with other leaders in your district. Additional information will also be provided at the School Administrators of Iowa conference in August.

## Online 2018 spring enrollment open now

Iowa Learning Online (ILO) is now accepting enrollments for the spring 2018 semester. To better meet individual student needs and diverse schedules of Iowa schools, ILO will offer two separate cohorts during the term offset by two weeks.

### Spring 2018 cohort A: Jan. 2 to May 4

(early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16)

### Spring 2018 cohort B: Jan. 16 to May 18

(early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29)

Each standard enrollment in cohort A or B includes a four-week trial/grace period. After the grace period, the local school will be billed a \$260 fee per enrollment. If a school/student situation does not fit within either cohort (such as a late enrollment), schools may contact ILO to discuss options for a special accommodation. View the [course descriptions](#), [log in](#) or [sign up](#) to enroll your students.

ILO is also piloting a new service, Branch Out, which is an affordable way for schools to take the first step to offering their own online service to meet their district's needs. ILO provides the infrastructure and high school courses, and the local school provides the teacher. Click the [Branch Out](#) link for more information.



## Register for ICN's InterConNEXT 2017

ICN is transitioning to its new Intelligent Communication Fabric to command software automation and move powerful features to the edge for customers to control. Customers will have a mobile application to interface with the new Software Defined Network (SDN) living at the heart of Jekard.

- Fast and Flexible Cyber Security services as a basic service.
- Monitor bandwidth performance using an app.
- Instantly increase or decrease broadband services.
- Add virtualized services by loading software to equipment on the edge.
- Powerful over-the-top services such as voice, video, analytics and other rich content sources.

All of this is powered by a new 200Gb intelligent automated core network with integrated Cyber Security features.

### InterConNEXT 2017:

**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. to noon

**Location:** FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny

**Cost:** Free. Space is limited. [Register at Eventbrite](#)

## Mathematics educators focus on teaching and learning

Almost 1,300 educators joined together for two days in Ankeny to attend the Summer Institute on Principles to Actions, with a focus on teaching and learning with the 8 Effective Teaching Practices for mathematics. These practices help bring the Iowa Core Standards for mathematics to fruition in student-centered classrooms where students are doing the thinking and teachers are facilitating.

The Iowa Department of Education, with the help of Area Education Agencies and local school districts, offered remote sites for overflow, access and equity, which allowed almost 400 additional educators to gain some information and exposure to the learning. This was the first attempt to leverage technology on a large scale allowing more educators access and providing a cost saving strategy.

Steve Leinwand, one of the presenters talked about “Sprinkling Empowerment Dust.” Asking questions such as

- Why?,
- How do you know?,
- Can you explain that?,
- Convince us,
- What do you notice?,
- What do you wonder?,

can empower students to think and teachers to gain evidence of their learning. One Iowa mathematics consultant tweeted, “It’s not about getting the right answers,” and another shared, “It is essential to ask students these questions to develop curiosity.” An instructional coach shared, “It’s our questions that determine their learning, Goal: Student-centered, rigorous math tasks that promote multiple approaches.”

The summer institute was the launch of learning around the 8 Effective Teaching Practices. There will be ongoing supports, learning opportunities, learning modules, book studies, Twitter chats, and resources, as districts look to move from learning about these practices to implementation. For more information, contact April Pforts at 515-314-6243 or [april.pforts@iowa.gov](mailto:april.pforts@iowa.gov).



Second draft of Iowa's ESSA plan released for public review, feedback

Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise announced that the [second draft of Iowa's state plan](#) for meeting the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is available for public review and comment.

"This draft plan ties together and builds on Iowa's collaborative education reform efforts under way to ensure students are prepared for success in high school and beyond," Wise said. "While this second draft is a significant step toward implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act, it's important that Iowans continue to give input so we land on a final plan that is right for the state."

[Read a snapshot of the plan here.](#)

ESSA is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This update replaces the No Child Left Behind Act and will be fully implemented in the 2017-18 school year. Under ESSA, Iowa and other states must develop state plans that address assessments, school and district accountability, funding, and support for struggling schools. [Read more.](#)

## Educator Quality Conference, Sept. 11

The Iowa Department of Education will be holding its third Educator Quality Conference on Sept. 11, at Simpson College in Indianola. To register, click [here](#). For more information, click [here](#).

## 103-year-old teacher reflects on education

Caroline Owen first started teaching when Franklin D. Roosevelt first took office. Yes, that was 1932. And yes, Mrs. Owen is doing fine, thank you very much.

The 103-year-old personifies the passionate educator, even though it's been nearly 40 years since her retirement. "It is so important to be patient with the children," Mrs. Owen said. "Children don't need punishment. They need to be cared for."

She believes that today. And she believed that 85 years ago when she first walked into that one-room schoolhouse in Calhoun County, a place where she would teach for the next four years. [Read more.](#)



Caroline Owen

## Early Childhood Preschool Programs

### Preschool reporting for fall desk audit

School districts are encouraged to download and review the instructions for completion of the [2017-2018 Preschool Desk Audit, Part One, which is required for ALL school districts](#). The Preschool Desk Audit, formerly known as Early Childhood Reporting, will now be completed within [CASA](#) for fall 2017.

It is recommended that districts organize session information by the program standard being followed by each session in advance in order to increase efficiency of data entry. All sessions reported for fall 2017 must follow session naming conventions described within the instructions for completing Part One of the Preschool Desk Audit. Districts are encouraged to regularly check the [Differentiated Accountability web page](#) for updates and resources.

For more information about the Preschool Desk Audit, go to the [Differentiated Accountability web page](#) or contact Jennifer Adkins at 515-281-4747 or [jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov).

## Nutrition and Health Services

### New Child and Adult Care Food program meal pattern

Schools serving children age 0-4 must follow the new Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal pattern no later than Oct. 1.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a new CACFP meal pattern in 2016, the first major revision of the Child and Adult Care Food Program meal patterns since the program's inception in 1968. The meal pattern was updated to reflect the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and is expected to safeguard the health of young children by ensuring healthy eating habits are developed early, and improve the wellness of adult participants. FY 2018 will be a transition year when technical assistance is provided and no fiscal action is taken for compliance errors.

A webinar will be offered on July 18 from noon to 3 p.m. about the new CACFP meal pattern. No registration is required. Details were provided in an email sent to the authorized representatives and food service directors on June 15. The webinar is limited to 500, on a first-come, first-served basis. Infant feeding will be covered last. Schools not serving infants may log off when the infant section begins. Click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://IDOE.zoom.us/j/363897329>

The webinar will be recorded and posted on the Iowa Department of Education website by July 31. A training certificate will be emailed after the webinar to those registered and is available upon request for those viewing the recording at a later date.

### Summer food programs: Filling a need

"If you build it, they will come," a quote many may recognize from the movie *Field of Dreams*. Set in rural Iowa, the film explores a farmer's decision to plow down his cornfield and build a baseball diamond in its place. While the film is fictional, the 'if you build it' philosophy is alive and well in Iowa this summer, in an urban park. Exactly what has been built may come as a surprise. With West Des Moines Community School District as the architect, Legion Park hosts a very well-built, successful summer food program for families seeking an appetizing, nutritious meal. [Read more.](#)



A young participant in the West Des Moines Community School District summer food program is served lunch at Legion Park in West Des Moines.



## Legal Lessons

Contact Nicole Proesch for all Legal Lessons items: [nicole.proesch@iowa.gov](mailto:nicole.proesch@iowa.gov) or 515-281-8661

### Land of the free

My family and I recently returned from a fun-filled, educational trip to Washington, D.C. It was packed full of sightseeing and fun for both the kids and adults. We walked the national mall, went to the Arlington National Cemetery, toured Mount Vernon, the Capitol, the Library of Congress, Fort McHenry, and went to the National Aquarium.

My oldest was very inquisitive and had lots of questions for the tour guides. I think she was testing their knowledge and her own. This year she studied the three branches of government and had discussions about the voting process in light of the election. It was really fun to see her reflect back on what she learned in social studies this year and use it to ask questions.



Our trip was a great learning experience for all of us and provided her an opportunity to apply what she learned in the classroom to a real-life experience. We have a nation with a rich history of our fight for freedom and it's important to remember how we got here. I know my daughter has a deeper appreciation for freedom of our nation because of her teacher. What an impact educators have on our lives – we are truly grateful.

Now, in this July edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you an Iowa Supreme Court case on premises liability, a new Student Privacy Website from the U.S. Department of Education, and a new special education website from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

#### **Iowa Supreme Court finds high school has a duty of care in a premises liability action and remands for new trial**

In a recent Iowa Supreme Court decision, the Court held that the district court erred when it failed to instruct a jury regarding a baseball player's failure to maintain a proper lookout in a premises liability action against the high school. In this case, a high school baseball player suffered serious injuries when he was struck by a foul ball in the head while he was standing in an unprotected part of the visitor's dugout at a high school's baseball field. The case was remanded back to district court for a new trial to determine if the high school was negligent.

[Ludman vs. Davenport Assumption High School, No. 15-1191 \(Iowa 2017\)](#)

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## Legal Lessons continued

### **New Student Privacy Website**

The U.S. Department of Education's Privacy and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) announced a launching of its new website in June. This new website replaces both the legacy PTAC and the Family Policy Compliance Office's (FPCO) sites, and further represents a reorganization of the offices at the Office of the Chief Privacy Officer (OCPO) into the Student Privacy Protection and Assistance Division (SPPAD). This new division will encompass PTAC and OCPO staff, serving as a centralized office responsible for providing best practices and technical assistance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other topics related to student privacy. The FPCO will retain its role in investigating FERPA complaints and undertaking enforcement actions.

#### [Student Privacy Website](#)

The website contains all previous resources and guidance from PTAC and FPCO and also reorganizes things to make it easier to navigate for the users. There is an online search function and the ability to initiate the complaint process online. There is also a section with recent webinars.

PTAC is a great resource for any issue that LEAs or SEAs have that relates to data privacy and protections. They have great FAQs and examples of data sharing and data privacy agreements.

The Student Privacy Website can be found at: <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>.

### **New Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website**

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at the U.S. Department of Education launched its new Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website May 31. The new site features improved site navigation and design, expanded search options, expanded content, audience specific-information, enhanced accessibility, and streamlined resources.

#### [Visit the IDEA website](#)

#### [View the flyer announcement](#)

#### [Provide feedback through the OSER's blog](#)

### **Students with Disabilities**

For questions regarding students with disabilities, contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or [thomas.mayes@iowa.gov](mailto:thomas.mayes@iowa.gov).

## Calendar

- July 1 • Vehicle Information System Update due
- July 1 • Joint Employment Whole Grade Sharing Application due
- July 15 • Last day to bill for second semester tuition
- July 15 • Last day to bill for second semester special education tuition



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